

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. ~~A method for a customer leasing a configured camera system including a camera and services for using such configured camera system and paying for the lease of such configured camera system, comprising the steps of:~~

(a) ~~providing an electronic database of information describing a plurality of differently configured camera systems which have different features and services that can be selected by the customer via a digital communications network;~~

(b) ~~displaying at the customer's location remote from the electronic database various components of the camera system that can be combined into the configured camera system;~~

(c) ~~the customer selecting desired components and services to provide the configured camera system and completing a lease agreement and providing a payment identifier specifying an account to be debited to pay for the configured camera system; and~~

(d) ~~sending the camera to a designee of the customer and establishing a service user account that specify the selected services that the designee can use~~

2. A method for a customer configuring a camera and paying for the lease of such configured camera, comprising the steps of:

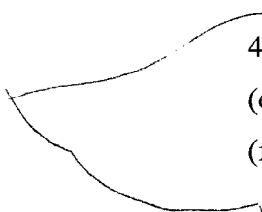
(a) providing an electronic database of information describing a plurality of differently configured cameras which have different features that can be selected by a customer via a digital communications network and programs which depict the functionality of such features;

(b) displaying at the customer's location remote from the electronic database various configuration features of cameras that are available and selecting programs which depict the functionality of desired features;

(c) the customer selecting various features to provide a desired configuration of a camera and providing a payment identifier specifying an account to be debited to pay for the configured camera; and


(d) sending the configured camera to a designee of the customer.

3. The method of claim 2 further including the step of the customer selecting various services to be used in conjunction with the configured camera and paying for such services.


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4. The method of claim 2 further including the step of:  
(e) capturing an image using the configured camera; and  
(f) forwarding such image for storage to a designated location.

5. The method of claim 4 further including sending stored images to a printer for making a visual image of at least one of the stored images and delivering prints of the stored image to one or more designated recipients.

6. The method of claim 4 including providing at least one of the stored images on a computer program product and delivering such computer program product to a designee.

 An electronic camera configured according to the method of claim 1.

8. A computer program product having instructions stored thereon for performing the method according to claim 1.

 9. A method for a customer leasing a camera system including a camera and services for using such camera system and paying for the lease of such camera system, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing an electronic camera system which has sensor, a communications network;
- (b) displaying at the camera base the various services of the customer;
- (c) the customer selecting a service and providing a payment for the selected services;
- (d) establishing a service that the designee can use;
- (e) storing in the camera base account; and
- (f) sending the camera

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the camera includes  
 ory, and wherein the service identifier is stored in the firmware

11. The method of claim 9 further including the step of:

- (g) capturing an image using the camera; and
- (h) forwarding such image to a service provider.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the customer selected the service provider storing the image on a digital media selected by the customer, and shipping the digital media to a designee of the customer.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the digital media is a CD-

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the customer selected services include the service provider storing the image on an Internet accessible digital storage device.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the customer selected services include the service provider e-mailing the image to at least one e-mail address provided by the customer.

16. The method of claim 4 further including the step of:  
(g) storing the images at the designated location for a period of time selected by the customer.

17. A camera [for capturing images to be provided to a service provider] comprising:

- (a) means for capturing and storing images;
- (b) a firmware memory [for storing a service identifier which identifies a service provider account, the service provider account specifying services to be provided by the service provider] and
- (c) means for providing the captured images and the service identifier to the service provider.

18. The camera of claim 17 wherein the camera is a film camera, the images are captured and stored using photographic film having at least one magnetic track, and the service identifier is recorded on the at least one magnetic track.

19. The camera of claim 17 wherein the camera is an electronic camera including a removable digital memory device, and the images and the service identifier are stored on the removable digital memory device.